
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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RELEASE
DATE: June 22, 2007

MEDIA ADVISORY

CAL FIRE Takes Zero Tolerance Stance Against Illegal Fireworks New bill stiffens penalties on the transport of illegal fireworks

Sacramento – To educate the public on CAL FIRE’s zero tolerance stand, the Department will team up with Sacramento area fire agencies to demonstrate the danger of illegal fireworks. The event will be held Monday, June 25 at 10 a.m. at the Sacramento City Fire Department’s station 19 at 1700 Challenge Way.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is taking a zero tolerance stand against anyone in possession of or transporting illegal fireworks. Every year hundreds of injuries and fires are caused by illegal and misused fireworks.

Fireworks that are illegal in California are those that explode, leave the ground, or move about the ground uncontrollably. Illegal fireworks include items such as sky rockets, bottle rockets, and roman candles. Anyone caught with illegal fireworks could face stiff fines and even arrest. All legal fireworks include a “Safe and Sane” logo from the California State Fire Marshal on the packaging but some illegal fireworks, especially those from out of the country, may have a forged logo on them. If you are not sure if your fireworks are legal you can contact your nearest CAL FIRE facility or local fire station.

Over the last ten years California has seen a rise in the transport of illegal fireworks. Each year the state assembles a task force to intercept illegal fireworks being shipped into the state through Nevada. Last year the task force confiscated more than 90 tons of illegal fireworks, which kept life-threatening fireworks off the streets. The Department is currently sponsoring Senate Bill 839 with State Senator Ron Calderon (D–Montebello) which would increase the penalties for anyone in possession of or transporting illegal fireworks in California.